

**Economic and Social Council**

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**Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial
Information Management****Sixth session**

New York, 3-5 August 2016

Item 7 of the provisional agenda*

**Legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to
authoritative data**

**Legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to
authoritative data****Note by the Secretariat**

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management its report on the legal and policy issues to be considered in developing a framework to support global geospatial information management in the public and private sectors, including issues related to authoritative data. The report is available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html). The Committee is invited to take note of the report.

Summary of the report

At its fifth session, held in New York from 5 to 7 August 2015, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 5/107, in which it welcomed the report on legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data, noted the updates on recent developments and increased focus that could have an impact on legal and policy frameworks supporting geospatial information, and that the geospatial community now needed to be more proactively engaged with issues relating to the collection, use, provenance and accessibility of data, such as privacy, licensing, quality and national security, as well as issues related to new disruptive technologies, such as unmanned aircraft systems (commonly known as drones). The Committee also recognized the growing need for geospatial professionals to understand the legislative and regulatory processes and their implications for the entire geospatial community, and for the legal profession and legislators to understand the wider use and benefits of geospatial information, and agreed that a plan of action and strategy should be prepared in consultation with the Centre for

* E/C.20/2016/1.



Spatial Law and Policy, relevant Member States and other experts, in order to begin the advocacy and engagement process among relevant parties.

In its report, prepared with the assistance of the Centre for Spatial Law and Policy, the Secretariat updates the Committee of Experts on the issues that have an impact on the requisite legal and policy frameworks globally and outlines a proposed international forum on legal and policy issues and frameworks, to be convened in Kuala Lumpur in October 2016, in order to facilitate a more informed dialogue on the identified issues, including national policies.

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**Implementation and adoption of standards for the global
geospatial information community****Implementation and adoption of standards for the global
geospatial information community****Note by the Secretariat**

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management the report on the implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community prepared jointly by the Open Geospatial Consortium, technical committee 211 of the International Organization for Standardization and the International Hydrographic Organization. The report is available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html). The Committee is invited to take note of the report and to express its views on the adoption and implementation of core geospatial standards.

Summary of the report

At its fifth session, held in New York from 5 to 7 August 2015, the Committee of Experts, in adopting decision 5/108, adopted the "Guide to the role of standards in geospatial information management" and the "Technical compendium" as the international geospatial standards best practice for spatial data infrastructure and encouraged all Member States to adopt and implement the recommended standards appropriate to the level of spatial data infrastructure maturity in their countries. The Committee noted the need for the further development of harmonized and interoperable standards, in particular between the statistical and geospatial communities, through collaboration with the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information, and urged Member States to participate in the proposed joint study group in order to ensure that the geospatial standards are relevant and available to monitor and measure the sustainable development goals.

* E/C.20/2016/1.



The report describes the initiatives and activities carried out by the international standards organizations to demonstrate the collaboration by the geospatial standards community with the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information and the progress achieved by the joint study group in ensuring that geospatial standards are relevant and available to monitor and measure the sustainable development goals in a geospatial context.
